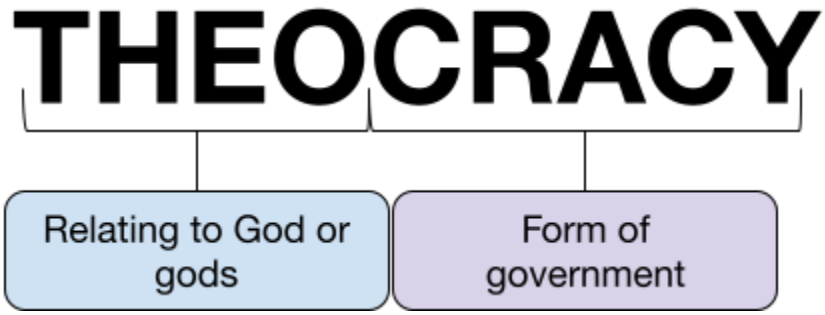


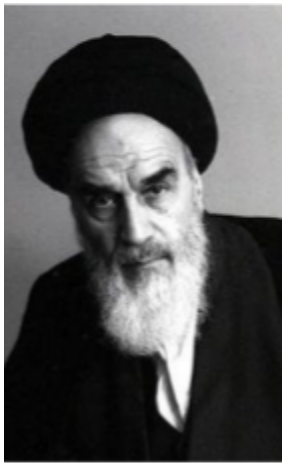
As a result of the Iranian Revolution in 1979, Iran's government changed from a **monarchy** to a **theocracy**. A theocracy is a type of government that is based on a religion. It is run by religious figures and its laws are based in religious laws.

In Iran, since 1979, the government's laws have been based on **Islamic law**, called **Sharia**. Though there are elected positions in Iran's government, the ultimate power is held by religious leaders who ensure that all government actions are in line with their interpretation of the Quran and Sharia Law.

The Iranian Revolution of 1979

Vocabulary

The Shah	the name used to refer to Shah Reza Pahlavi; *shah* was the title given to him to show that he was the king of Iran
Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini	Muslim religious leader who became the leader of the Iranian government as a result of the Iranian Revolution in 1979
Shiite	a religious sect in Islam; Khomeini was Shiite
cleric	a religious leader
secular	nonreligious
Autocratic regime	a government who has complete control of those it rules
mullah	the Persian word for a Muslim religious leader


Ruhollah Khomeini
Image is courtesy of wikimedia commons


Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi
Shahanshah Aryamehr 1941 - 1979.
Image is courtesy of wikimedia commons

Name:_____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Iranian Revolution

1. **Why did the United States interfere in Iran in the 1950s? What was the result of their interference?**

2. **Why did some Iranians support the Shah?**

3. **Why did some oppose the Shah?**

4. **What was the result of the Iranian Revolution of 1979? Who was removed from power? Who gained power?**

5. For each of the terms below, check off if it applies to the policies of **Shah Reza Pahlavi** or **Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and explain why you identify the terms with the rulers.**

Term	The Shah or Khomeini?	Explanation
modern	☐ Shah ☐ Khomeini	
traditional	☐ Shah ☐ Khomeini	
secular	☐ Shah ☐ Khomeini	
religious	☐ Shah ☐ Khomeini	
theocratic	☐ Shah ☐ Khomeini	
western	☐ Shah ☐ Khomeini	